

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OES-09 EB-08 INT-05 SS-15

STR-07 NSC-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 /065 W

-----022419 311251Z /53

R 301330Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3040

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STATE PASS AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, BC

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND WATER AFFAIRS CHIEPE-
VISIT TO US

1. SUMMARY: MINISTER GAOSITWE K.T. CHIEPE PLANS TO VIST
EUROPE AND THE US OCTOBER 17-27 WITH FINAL THREE DAYS IN
WASHINGTON. PURPOSE IS PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS MINERALS AFFAIRS.
MINISTER REQUESTS COURTESY CALL ON SECRETARY OF INTERIOR,
MEETINGS WITH BUREAU OF MINES AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OFFICIALS
AS WELL AS IN STATE AND AID. ACTION REQUESTED: ASSISTANCE
IN DEVELOPING SCHEDULE FOR THREE DAYS IN WASHINGTON AND
SPECIFICALLY: A) PROMPT INDICATION AS TO WHETHER COURTESY
CALL ON SECRETARY OF INTERIOR CAN BE SCHEDULED OCTOBER 25,
AND B) SUGGESTED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS WITH BUREAU OF MINES,
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND STATE/AID OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

2. DR. CHARLES JOHNSON, AMCIT AND FORD FOUNDATION FUNDED
PRINCIPAL ADVISOR IN GOB MINISTRY OF MINERAL RESOURCES,
WATER AFFAIRS AND ENERGY, CALLED ON ME AUGUST 28 TO SAY
THAT MINISTER CHIEPE, ACCOMPANIED BY PERMSEC JULIAN
NGANUNU AND PERHAPS ONE OTHER PERSON, PLANS A TWO
WEEK TRIP TO EUROPE AND THE US IN THE SECOND HALF OF
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OCTOBER. AFTER ASKING THAT THE SUBJECT BE KEPT IN
CONFIDENTIAL CHANNELS UNTIL ARRANGEMENTS ARE FIRM,
JOHNSON SAID THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF DR. CHIEPE'S
TRIP WAS TO MAKE CONTACTS AND ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS
THAT WILL ENABLE HER TO MAKE BETTER INFORMED DECISIONS
IN HIGHLY COMPLEX MINERALS SECTOR. A SIMILAR VISIT
BY MINISTER CHIEPE TO AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN LAST YEAR

HAD PROVED EXTREMELY USEFUL, JOHNSON SAID, POINTING TO A MORNING NEWSPAPER REPORT OF THE ARRIVAL OF ANOTHER JAPANESE DELEGATION LOOKING INTO COAL PURCHASES. JOHNSON WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE VISIT TO EUROPE AND THE US WAS ESSENTIAL AND WOULD BE EQUALLY PRODUCTIVE. HE SPOKE OF MRS. CHIEPE'S NEED TO ACQUIRE CONFIDENCE IN DEALING WITH COMPLICATED MINERALS QUESTIONS.

3. ITINERARY: JOHNSON OUTLINED THE ITINERARY DEVELOPED THUS FAR:

--A. OCTOBER 17-21: VISITS TO (UNSPECIFIED) WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT AND LEADING PRIVATE COMPANIES;
--B. OCTOBER 23-24: MEETINGS IN NEW YORK WITH LEADING AMERICAN BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES, PRINCIPALLY MINERALS COMPANIES, BEING ARRANGED BY JOHNSON THROUGH HIS OWN CONTACTS;
--C. OCTOBER 25-27: PLANNED VISIT TO WASHINGTON, D.C. WHICH JOHNSON HAD CONSIDERED IN ONLY A PRE-LIMINARY WAY. HIS FIRST THOUGHT, GIVEN PURPOSE OF THE TRIP, WAS TO PAY COURTESY VISIT ON SECRETARY OF INTERIOR ANDRUS ON THE FIRST DAY, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 25, OF HER WASHINGTON, D.C. VISIT. JOHNSON THOUGHT THIS WOULD HELP "SET THE TONE" FOR LATER MEETINGS SHE WOULD LIKE WITH BUREAU OF MINES AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY. JOHNSON SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEW DIRECTORS OF BUMINES AND USGS. THE SPECIFIC AGENDA WOULD BE USG APPROACH TO MINERALS POLICY, COMMODITIES FORECASTING DATA AND RELATED ANALYSIS, POSSIBILITY OF USG ASSISTANCE IN MINERALS EXPLORATION IN BOTSWANA, IMPROVED SATELLITE DATA AND DISCUSSION OF WATER, SOLAR ENERGY AND SMALL MINING PROJECTS. I SAID WE WOULD INQUIRE AND OBTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO USE ONE AND A HALF DAYS IN INTERIOR MOST PRODUCTIVELY.

4. AT JOHNSON'S INVITATION TO ADD SUGGESTIONS, I SAID I HOPED DR. CHIEPE MIGHT HAVE TIME TO CALL ON STATE DEPARTMENT AND USAID OFFICIALS. HE AGREED THAT DR. CHIEPE, AS ARTICULATE SPOKESPERSON FOR THE LEAD MINISTRY IN BOTSWANA'S ECONOMY, AS THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE CABINET (AND ONE OF TWO IN PARLIAMENT), AS STUDENT OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT WITH URGENT PROJECT REQUESTS OF HER OWN (E.G., IN WATER AFFAIRS), HER VIEWS WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO BOTH STATE AND AID. JOHNSON WELCOMED THE POSSIBILITY OF MEETINGS AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE MINISTER CHIEPE WOULD BE PLEASED IF A HALF DAY OF SUCH CONTACTS COULD BE

ARRANGED. THESE MEETINGS, TOGETHER WITH SUGGESTIONS EMANATING FROM INTERIOR CONTACTS, WOULD NO DOUBT FILL THE REMAINING TIME OF HER VISIT. JOHNSON AGREED AND NOTED THE MINISTER MIGHT ALSO WANT TO DISCUSS TARIFF PREFERENCES, POSSIBLE EXPORT CREDITS FOR US EQUIPMENT, AND OTHER SUGGESTIONS THAT WOULD ARISE. FYI: JOHNSON SAID DIAMONDS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE ON LIST OF SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION WITH USG OFFICIALS BOTH BECAUSE US IS NOT CONSIDERED "PARTICULARLY WELL INFORMED" AND BECAUSE OF "MARKETING PROBLEMS" WHICH STEM FROM DEBEERS MARKETING MONOPOLY. END FYI.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING SCHEDULE FOR MINISTER CHIEPE'S ANTICIPATED THREE DAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VISIT, OCTOBER 25-27 IN WASHINGTON, D.C. (B) PROMPT INDICATION AS TO WHETHER COURTESY CALL CAN BE ARRANGED WITH SECRETARY OF INTERIOR ANDRUS, AND (C) RRECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING OTHER MEETINGS AS REQUESTED ABOVE.
NORLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GABORO02736
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780356-0008
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780810/aaaaahqd.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: afb38457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1538064
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTER OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND WATER AFFAIRS CHIEPE- VISIT TO US
TAGS: OVIP, BC, (CHIEPE, GASOSITWE K T)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/afb38457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014